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Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 01601 091141Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 CU-02 LAB-04
SIL-01 DHA-02 HEW-04 COME-00 STR-04 AID-05 /099 W
----------091432Z 093970 /50
R 091020Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7251

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT,PFOR,ECON, CE
SUBJECT: UNITED NATIONAL PARTY ELECTION MANIFESTO

1. SUMMARY. ELECTION MANIFESTO OF UNITED NATIONAL PARTY CONTAINS NO SURPRISES AND NO RADICAL DEPARTURES IN PRESENT POLICIES. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS,THE UNP PROMISES TO PURSUE INDEPENDENT, ANTI-IMPERIALIST POLICIES SUPPORTIVE OF THE UN,NON-ALIGNMENT AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. MAIN INITIATIVE IN DOMESTIC POLICY IS PROPOSED NEW REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION WITH ELECTED PRESIDENT WHO WOULD
APPOINT PRIME MINISTER. A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR M.P.'S, A REORGANIZATION OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION,ENCOURAGEMENT OF NON-POLITICAL TRADE UNIONS, AND A REVIEW OF SENTENCES FOR IMPRISONED INSURGENTS ARE ALSO PROMISED. IN DOMESTIC WELFARE POLICIES, THE UNP PROMISES TO SUPPLY EIGHT POUNDS OF GRAIN PER ADULT PER WEEK, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT EXPLICITLY STATED HOW MUCH THAT SUPPLY WOULD BE SUBSIDIZED. A NATIONAL SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEME IN PROPOSED FOR THOSE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PENSIONS OR PROVIDENT FUND. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH FOREIGN COLLABORATION WILL BE ENCOURAGED THROUGH THE DEVICE OF FREE TRADE ZONES. END SUMMARY.
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PAGE 02 COLOMB 01601 091141Z

2. A CRITIQUE OF THE LAST SEVEN YEARS OF MRS. BANDARANAIKE'S RULE LEADS OFF THE UNP ELECTION MANIFESTO. THE LITANY OF GRIEVANCES INCLUDES FOOD SHORTAGES, "STATE CAPITALISM," CORRUPTION, NEPOTISM, AND ABUSE OF EMERGENCY POWERS. IN CONTRAST, THE UNP ENVISIONS A "NEW SOCIETY, BASED ON HUMAN AND MORAL VALUES;" THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

PAJZY PROMISES TO PREPARE AND ENFORCE A CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS, TO ENSURE FREEDOM FROM BRIBERY
AND OTHER FORMS OF CORRUPTION.

3. A NEW CONSTITUTION WILL BE DRAFTED IF THE UNP
SHOULD COME TO POWER. THE MAJOR CHANGE APPEARS TO BE
PROVISION FOR AN ELECTED PRESIDENT WHO WOULD SELECT THE
PRIME MINISTER FROM THE MAJORITY PARTY AND WHO WOULD HAVE
EXECUTIVE POWERS HIMSELF. THE CONSTITUTION WILL
"STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND THE JUIDICIARY
AND RE-ESTABLISH THE RULE OF LAW." IN A BID FOR TAMIL
AND MUSLIM SUPPORT, THE UNP ALSO PROMISES TO SUMMON AN
ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER HOW THE PROBLEMS OF

NON-SINHALA SPEAKERS CAN BE REDRESSED IN THE CONSTITUTION.
PARTICULAR GRIEVANCES OF THE TAMILLS--IN EDUCATION,
COLONIZATION, USE OF THE TAMIL LANGUAGE, AND GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYMENT--WILL ALSO BE ADDRESSED BY THE ALL-PARTY
CONFERENCE.

4. IN THE LABOR AREA, THE UNP HOPES TO ENCOURAGE NON-
POLITICAL TRADE UNIONS (THERE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN
CONTROVERSY OVER A SUPPOSED UNP SUGGESTION THAT THERE
BE ONE TRADE UNION PER WORKPLACE; NO SUCH STATEMENT
IS MADE IN THE MANIFESTO). THE PARTY COMMITS ITSELF
TO THE PRESENCE OF WORKER DELEGATES ON MANAGEMENT
BOARDS AND WILL "ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF WORKER OWNER-
SHIP."

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5. OTHER DOMESTIC POLICIES INCLUDE REORGANIZATION OF
THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM (A RETURN TO DE-CENTRALIZED
AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITITES), EXTENSION OF VOCATIONAL AND
ADULT EDUCATION, AND TREATMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT AS A
"MATTER OF UTMOST PRIORITY AND NATIONAL IMPORTANCE"
WITH RECRUITMENT FOR JOBS TO BE A MERIT. THE
PARTY ALSO PROMISES TO "RADICALLY ALTER SUCH
OPPRESSIVE LEGISLATION AS THE LAND BETTERMENT TAX LAW."
IN A SHORT SECTION ON THE 1971 INSURGENCY, THE MANIFESTO
NOTES THAT THE YOUTH "WERE MISLED BY UNSCRUPULOUS
PERSONS FOR THEIR OWN SELFISH POLITICAL GAIN" AND THAT
"THIS RESULTED IN THE INSURRECTION." THE UNP PROMISES
TO REVIEW THE CASES OF ALL THOSE PUNISHED.

6. AS EXPECTED, THE MANIFESTO PROMISES A SUPPLY OF
EIGHT POUNDS OF GRAIN PER ADULT PER WEEK, OF WHICH AN UN
SPECIFIED PROPORTION IS TO BE FREE AND THE REST SUBSISIZED(THE
GSL RECENTLY INCREASED THE RICE RATION TO ONE POUND FREE AND
THREE POUNDS SUBSIDIZED PER WEEK (COLOMBO 1401). ONE SOCIAL

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

WELFARE INITIATIVE PROMISED BY THE MANIFESTO IS A NATIONAL SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEME TO PROVIDE FOR THOSE NOT COVERED BY PENSION PROGRAMS OR PROVIDENT FUNDS (PRIMARILY THE SELF-EMPLOYED, FARMERS,FISHERMAN, ETC.)

7. THE BRIEFSECTION ON FOREIGN POLICY IS A NON-CONTROVERSIAL ENDORSEMENT OF NON-ALIGNMENT, THE U.N. CHARTER,THE THIRD WORLD,AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. AS FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT, THE MANI-FESTO PLEDGES THAT "INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH FOREIGN COLLABORATION OR DIRECT INVOLVEMENT WILL BE ENCOURAGED AND PROMOTED BY WAY OF FREE TRADE ZONES GEARED TO EXPORTS,TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT, TO EARN FOREIGN EXCHANGE, AND OBVIATE THE DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN AID."

8. COMMENT. UNP SOURCES HAVE BEEN TELLING US THAT A
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PAGE 04 COLOMB 01601 091141Z

GREAT DEAL OF TIME HAS BEEN PUT INTO PLANNING NEW AND UNORTHODOX SOLUTIONS FOR THE COUNTRY'S MANY PROBLEMS. IF SO, IT IS NOT APPARENT IN THIS PUBLIC DOCUMENT. TWO OF THE MAJOR CAMPAIGN ISSUES ARE SURE TO BE THE COST OF LIVING AND UNEMPLOYMENT. ON NEITHER OF THESE DOES THE UNP OFFER ANYTHING BUT CRITICISM OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND PROMISES OF PRIORITY CONSIDERATION OF NEW APPROACHES. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE OPENING UP OF THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA (SPECIFICALLY THE BROADCASTING CORPORATION AND THE LAKE HOUSE NEWSPAPERS), RELAXATION OF THE PUBLIC SECURITY ORDINANCE(WHICH AUTHORIZES EMBERGENCY RULE), OR THE UNP PLANS TO RETAIN OR SCRAP THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION ACT AND THE BUSINESS ACQUISITIONS ACT. THE UNP IS PERHAPS SO CONFIDENT OF WINNING THE ELCTIONS THAT IS FEELS THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO MAKE THE USUAL RASH PROMISES WHICH CAN THEN BE THROWN BACK AT THE PARTY WHEN IN POWER. IT APPEARS AS IF THE SLFP MANIFESTO, WHEN ISSUED,WILL ALSO LACK MAJOR NEW PROGRAMS WITH THE REASONING THAT THE NEXT SIX YEARS WILL BE A TIME OF CONSOLIDATION OF THE SLFP'S PREVIOUS INITIATIVES.
EMBASSY IS POUCHING UNP MANIFESTO TO NEA/INS.
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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SAS ID: 2602824
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Subject: UNITED NATIONAL PARTY ELECTION MANIFESTO
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